

# The Federal Flyer

## House Committee Passes FY 2002 Transportation Spending Bill *Measure Honors TEA 21 & AIR 21, Texas Receives More Project Earmarks*

Wednesday, the House Committee on Appropriations approved the FY 2002 appropriations bill for the U.S. Department of Transportation and Related Agencies. The measure, which passed by voice vote, provides \$59.051 billion for the nation's federal transportation programs.

**Bill Honors TEA 21 and AIR 21.** Total highway spending in the measure accounts for \$32.665 billion, an increase of \$1.28 billion over FY 2001 spending levels. Under the bill, Texas could expect to obligate about \$2.07 billion in federal highway funds for formula-funded highway programs during FY 2002, an increase of about \$200 million (or 10 percent) over FY 2001. Similarly, transit programs would see spending in FY 2002 of \$6.75 billion, an increase of \$493 million (or 8 percent) over the current year. The Federal Aviation Administration and its programs would receive 13.3 billion in FY 2002, an increase of \$690 million over FY 2001 levels, as a result of the higher spending levels authorized under AIR 21. Within the FAA total, the Airport Improvement Program would receive \$3.3 billion under the House bill, an increase of \$100 million over FY 2001. The bill would provide a total of \$4.996 billion for the Coast Guard.

**Details of note include:** The most important new provision for Texas and other Southwest border states is the committee's approval of President Bush's proposal to target \$56 million in Revenue Aligned Budget Authority (RABA) funds for the construction of motor carrier safety inspection facilities along the U.S./Mexico border. Texas should receive a significant share of these funds, which would be administered by the FHWA and FMCSA jointly. The bill would also increase motor carrier safety grant funds to \$206 million in FY 2002, consistent with reforms enacted as part of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999.

In addition, the committee rejected an amendment offered by **Congressman Martin Sabo** (D - Minnesota) to require that Mexican motor carriers receive truck inspections before they are allowed access to the United States beyond the current commercial zones along the border. The Bush Administration has proposed rules that would establish an 18-month review and compliance period for Mexican carriers who will apply for U.S. access. Those proposed rules are currently out for public comment.

**Texas Receives Additional Transportation Earmarks.** It appears that the committee has earmarked 100 percent of the funds in the major federal highway discretionary categories. In the House appropriations bill, Texas members improved on their efforts to earmark more funds for Texas, providing earmarks for \$38.5 million in projects for the state, which would give Texas a rate of return of 89.9 cents on the dollar on the discretionary funds earmarked this year. However, we are still significantly short of our overall TEA 21 goal of \$350 million in funding in these programs. Thus far through FY 2001, Texas has received only \$85 million in highway discretionary program funds. To achieve our overall 90.5 cents on the dollar rate of return in highway discretionary dollars, Texas needs to receive at least \$264 million in FY 2002 and 2003. The attached chart describes the earmarks Texas would receive in the House bill.

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The Texas Department of Transportation's Legislative Affairs Office will continue to monitor the FY 2002 appropriations process in the coming weeks. The Senate Appropriations Committee is not expected to take up their version of the transportation spending measure until after the full House has voted out its bill.

### FY 2002 House Appropriations Committee Highway Discretionary Earmarks

Texas Project	Amount	Program
Austin	\$250,000	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment
Brownsville	\$500,000	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment
Harris County 911 emergency network	\$1,000,000	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment
Pharr bridge toll connector	\$830,000	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment
Seabrook traffic management control	\$1,200,000	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment
I-35West/US 287 interchange	\$4,000,000	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary
I-10 Katy Freeway	\$6,000,000	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary
I-35 East/I-635 interchange	\$5,400,000	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary
IH 610 bridge	\$1,500,000	Interstate Maintenance Discretionary
Leon River Bridge	\$1,500,000	Bridge Discretionary
Amistad NRA, Box Canyon Ramp Rd.	\$6,000,000	Federal Lands Highways
Ivy Mountain Road paving	\$1,000,000	Federal Lands Highways
Ports-to-plains corridor development plan	\$2,000,000	Border/Corridor
I-69 Corridors 18 & 20	\$1,250,000	Border/Corridor
I-35 expansion, Hillsboro County (error)	\$2,000,000	Border/Corridor
Freeport Business Center off ramp	\$1,000,000	Border/Corridor
FM 1016 from US 83 to Madero	\$1,000,000	Border/Corridor
I-35 replacement bridge	\$1,000,000	Border/Corridor
Corpus Christi ferry landings	\$200,000	Ferry Boats Discretionary
Trinity River Visions	\$100,000	Transportation & Community & System Preservation
City of Frisco	\$550,000	Transportation & Community & System Preservation
Houston Main Street corridor master plan	\$300,000	Transportation & Community & System Preservation
Texas Total	\$38,580,000	

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The House bill included language requiring the Federal Aviation Administration to give priority consideration to the following Texas projects through its discretionary programs:

- Abilene Regional Airport taxiway extension
- Brownsville/So. Padre Island International Airport taxiway extension
- City of Laredo land acquisition
- Denton Municipal Airport taxiway realignment
- Fort Worth Alliance Airport runway extension
- Sugar Land Municipal Airport new construction
- Terrell Municipal Airport runway extend & overlay
- Valley International Airport reconstruction & relocate Rio Hondo Road

In addition, for the first time since the program received authorization in AIR 21, the committee provides \$10 million from the Small Airports fund for the Small Community Airport Service Development Pilot Program. The program is designed to stimulate new or expanded air service at underutilized airports in small and rural communities throughout the United States.

### FY 2002 House Appropriations Committee Aviation & Transit Discretionary Earmarks

Texas Project	Amount	Program
Corpus Christi	\$650,000	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities
Beaumont	\$800,000	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities
Abilene	\$1,045,000	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities
Houston	\$75,000	Terminal Air Traffic Control Facilities
Mineral Wells Municipal Airport	\$675,000	Instrument Landing Systems
Abilene bus replacement	\$1,000,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Brownsville multimodal facility study	\$100,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Capital Metro park & ride (Austin)	\$500,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
City of Huntsville buses	\$750,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Connection Capital Project for Community Transit	\$700,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Fort Worth Transportation Authority CNG buses	\$2,500,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Fort worth Intermodal center park & ride	\$500,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Fort Worth 9th Street Transfer Station	\$1,600,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Houston Barker Cypress park & ride	\$10,100,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Houston Main Street Corridor Master Plan	\$1,000,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Liberty County buses	\$750,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
North East Transportation System	\$260,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
San Antonio VIA buses	\$750,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Sun Metro bus & bus facilities (El Paso)	\$1,000,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Texas Tech University park & ride; buses	\$2,000,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Waco Transit maintenance & admin. facility	\$2,500,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Woodlands District park & ride	\$1,000,000	Bus & Bus Facilities Discretionary
Dallas North Central light rail transit extension	\$70,000,000	New Starts Discretionary

The *Federal Flyer* is a publication of the TxDOT Legislative Affairs Office. It is intended to provide up-to-date information on major legislative activities in the 106th Congress for the management of the Texas Department of Transportation, state leaders, and others interested in Texas transportation issues. This report will also feature key activities in the national transportation community. Sources include news services and staff reports.

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